



Alexandria, Va.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 22, 1876.

**THE POOR AND THE POOR RATES.**—One of the first objects of municipal concernment after the organization of the new town government in 1870, was the care of the poor. Before that the care of the poor within the town had devolved upon the county of Fairfax, in which Alexandria was situated. At first paupers entitled to public charity were lodged in private houses, and there "kept," paid out of the public funds. About 1790 the present poor and work house system was established, and in 1795 Dennis Ramsay, Abraham Faw and Francis Peyton drew up rules for its government. It had, as now, a keeper, and was under the special charge of a Council committee on the poor, whose duties were, however, much more onerous than they now are. Each three months a new committee of three was appointed, who were required to visit the poor house and work house at least once a week during their continuance in office, to inspect particularly the state of those in each house, to direct in what manner they should be provided for, to order what materials should be procured for their labor, and to make such regulations relative to the conduct of the keeper as they thought most conducive to the public interest, and at the end of every week to settle the accounts of the keeper.

It seems to have been at first supposed, singular as such a supposition may appear in the light of experience, that the poor and work house would, to a considerable extent, be a self-supporting institution, and might be made, like the present gas works, to pay an overplus into the city treasury. The committee on the poor were authorized to give the keeper at the end of each week "an order on the treasurer of the corporation for any balance which may appear due, or in case the fees and profits of labor shall exceed the expenses to receive and pay into the treasury the amount of such excess." At first there was no corporation relief of paupers outside the poor house, but by degrees the furnishing of wood, medicine, and medical attendance grew into public charities, and they have long grown to be by virtue of special enactments and usage, humane customs of the town.

Under the present arrangements for the care of the poor, the committee on the poor have charge of the poor house and its management. This committee is composed of two Aldermen and two members of the Common Council. The outdoor poor are in the charge of four trustees of the poor, one from each ward, chosen by the City Council, but not members of either branch. We give below a statement of the expenditures on account of the poor and work house, and the outdoor poor, including physicians and medicine for the years named:

The estimate and appropriation for the fiscal year 1877 is \$6,500.

**THE BLACK VOTE DIVIDED.**—Dr. Redfield, a republican, and the correspondent of the Cincinnati Commercial, a republican paper, was in Alabama during the late election there, and has arrived at the conclusion that at last the black vote in the South has been divided. He says that Marion county in that State "has heretofore been one of the republican strong-holds, and up to the late election it never failed to roll in a republican majority of from two to three thousand. The population of the county is 6,000 white and 20,000 colored. This means that the republicans outnumbered the democrats more than three to one. In 1874 the democrats polled 1,808 votes and the republicans 3,432. Last week the republican vote dwindled down to 1,306 and the democratic swelled to 2,598, for the reason that fully one thousand colored men voted the democratic ticket, and another thousand did not vote at all. Bullock county contains 7,223 whites and 17,257 blacks. In 1874 the republican ticket in that county had 2,503 votes, and at the recent election it had but 600, a falling off of nearly 2,000, whilst the democratic vote ran up from 1,584 in 1874 to 2,919 in 1876. As there are only about 1,200 democratic votes in the county, it is evident the bulk of the black vote went to the democrats. In Hale county, containing 4,800 whites to 17,000 blacks, the democrats made a net gain of 2,938 votes, fully 1,500 blacks voting with the democrats." The same condition is said to exist in Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana, and some of the other Southern States, and though Virginia is almost too near the corrupting influences of Washington to the beneficial change to have made much progress here yet awhile, the course of some of the most intelligent colored preachers in the State shows that it has commenced, and we are not without hope that it will continue. It is certainly to the advantage of both races that they should live in amity, and nothing would conduce more to that end than for the colored people to show by their votes that they are no longer a unit in the hands of a few selfish and mercenary white strangers, whose use for them ceases as soon as they have secured lucrative offices.

The identity of the gentleman to whose letter Col. Mosby lately replied is becoming a matter of some inquiry, and the more it is thought about the greater becomes the difficulty of arriving at a satisfactory conclusion concerning it, and we fear the question will remain

unsettled unless the colonel name him. What conservative Virginian capable of writing a letter could be so ignorant of what is daily occurring immediately around him as to say that "Tilden and Hendricks are the candidates of the Southern people, and if elected, will be under their control," when it is known to all other men that the South went to St. Louis and told the North to select any candidates it might choose, is something that no fellow but Col. Mosby can find out.

The many friends of Col. Geo. F. Strother, superintendent of the Virginia penitentiary, will be glad to learn, through a correspondent of the Richmond Dispatch, that that gentleman is at his brother's residence in Rappahannock county, and that since he has breathed the pure, fresh and invigorating mountain air he has improved wonderfully, and is now able to walk about the premises. His recovery is confidently expected in a short while, unless a relapse occurs.

The whole stock of material of the radicals, so far in the presidential campaign, has been the hatred and antipathies engendered by the war, but they have traded upon that so much that its becoming like all other second-hand goods, almost worthless, and if they would not have their speakers and writers give up from sheer want of pabulum, they must speedily supply them with something new.

There seems to be little ground for hope of a revival of fraternal relations between the two sections of the country if the radicals remain in power, for some of the newspapers of that party carry their hatred of the South to the extent of even regretting that the crops of that section have not failed.

#### News of the Day.

Governor Chamberlain of S. C., has issued a proclamation regarding the threatened effort of the negro Whippers to take possession of the Charleston judges by force. The Governor says: Any such attempt by W. J. Whipper and those who may aid and abet him will be regarded and treated by me, not only as an unlawful and riotous disturbance of the public peace, but also as an outrage upon the judicial authority not to be tolerated in a civilized State. He warns the law officers to oppose Whipper's pretensions promptly and vigorously, and says if they fail to do so he will at once organize a sufficient force for State constabulary under his own direction and control to support the authority of the rightful judge.

Rev. Dr. Fuller, of Atlanta, Ga.; Judge Fancher, of New York, and others, fraternal commissioners appointed by the General Conference of the M. E. Church North and South, now at Cape May, N. J., were yesterday the guests of A. Whitlaid, at the Sea Grove House. They were formally welcomed by Rev. Dr. Grammer, of Baltimore. They returned to Cape May in the evening.

Hillary Page, the negro known as the Chesterfield fire fiend, now under sentence of death in Richmond, Va., for a series of arson, attempted to escape from jail yesterday afternoon by throwing a pail of water in the face of the jailer and grappling with him while he was chained. All the prisoners in the jail, some thirteen, were in the plot. The attempt was frustrated by the jailer.

There will be 510 persons discharged from the regular rolls of the United States Treasury Department under the reduction directed by the recent acts of Congress. In addition to these there will be about 50 persons discharged who are temporarily employed, most of whom are in the Treasury's office. Nearly one-half of all those to be discharged are women.

The N. Y. Tammany and anti-Tammany conference committee met yesterday, but failed to agree on a united action. The anti-Tammany party insisted on having half of the nominations for local officers. Tammany promptly refused. B. H. parties will send delegations to the Saratoga democratic convention, to be held on the 30th.

All but twenty-seven of the Utes, who left Fort Pieterman, after having been feasted and armed, and having indulged in numerous war dances, deserted on the Cheyenne river on Friday last, taking with them the arms which were furnished them to fight the Sioux.

By an error in crossing the Legislative, Executive and Judicial Appropriation bill there was omitted the appropriation of \$14,000 for the contingent fund of the Department of Justice, the effect of which will be to deprive that branch of the service of light, fuel, etc.

The lumber yard, sash factory and small saw mill of Peter Heim & Co., of Cumberland, were burned yesterday morning. Loss between \$25,000 and \$30,000. It is supposed the fire caught from sparks from the engine room.

The Irish democrats of Massachusetts are opposed to the nomination of Charles Francis Adams on account of Mr. Adams' action in relation to the Fenians while Minister to England.

Colored democratic clubs are being organized in different parts of the State of Florida, and the members are enthusiastic in their desire to secure the election of Tilden and Hendricks. Thomas F. Mosely has been appointed United States gauger for the Fifth district of Virginia.

**THE TURKISH WAR.**—A Reuter telegram from London says 40,000 Turks, Kerim Pasha commanding, met the Servians between Supovatz and Alexina on Sunday. They made several attacks, but were everywhere repulsed. One wing of the Serbian army even successfully assumed the offensive. The battle was renewed on Monday. It is considered probable that the Servians will fall back to Alexina, and a decisive battle will be fought there. If the Servians win that fight the war will be continued. If the Turks are victorious the Servians will be willing to conclude peace. A Turkish official dispatch from Nisnia reports that the Ottoman forces have defeated the Servians near Alexina and occupied their positions, and adding that the Servians' losses are considerable.

A special to the Daily Telegraph says that Prince Milan, in spite of the exhortations of the war party to the contrary, has received the communications of England with considerable favor, and is personally inclined to appeal to the powers for mediation.

#### Summer Touring in Virginia.

[Correspondence of the Alexandria Gazette.]  
SALEM, August 21, 1876.—Believing in the ancient adage, that when you want to know a country, the best method of traveling is "to take thy staff in thy hand, and walk through it," we—for there was quite a party of us—took our carriages, several most excellent saddle-horses—for ladies and gentlemen—walking suits, canes, and as there was a Yank along, the inevitable umbrella, and amid the hearty good byes of friends and acquaintances, started from the lively town of Warrenton, en route for "a trip."

It was one of those damp, disagreeable days, when one was ever in doubt whether it would rain, or not, would it pour, or clear up? Such questions as these were asked, every few minutes of the weather wise. Was to him, who prophesied, "You cannot start to-day." His prophetic brain fell many degrees in a twinkling. At last, becoming desperate, the ladies declared that, "should they get soaking wet, they would be off this day, or not go at all." In the confusion and noise of starting, one pair of carriage horses, dashed away down the street, going to see the mountains—alone! All right! hurrah! off at last! and we turned our faces westward, towards the grand old Blue Ridge Mountains, and wonder can we, indeed, climb their rugged sides, as they loom up on the distant horizon. There now! I've forgotten my cramping pins, do go back and get them for me! Get me a paper of cigarettes! And my blue scarf! The saddle-bagskers start out on the various last messages, each striving to add to the pleasure of the others.

The horses, having been stabled for several days, were eager for the road—the riders—if possible, were more so. Ah! man, live and enjoy life! See the beautiful wherever it presents itself; to our thinking, nothing is more beautiful than to see a lovely woman on horse back, riding like she did at "don't care," as erect as an Indian, the two as one, sauntering down the road. (Your pardon for this digression—for we are ladies!) As it felt like we were on our side, the sun comes out in all its glory, as we are crossing the Rappahannock at Waterloo. The trees on its banks, the trailing vines, hanging—sweeping as it were—to kiss the limpid waters, sun-beams flooding all with liveliest hues, caused the whole cavalcade to stop on the bridge and admire. O! O! my! were numerous. Many a peal of merry laughter would be heard, and as we wended our way over hills and through valleys, regardless of time, we would stop our horses on some high hill and look at the shadows creeping over the country. Then some one would call attention to the moon—rising—just as it were, pressing the darkness towards the western mountains. Yes, travelers, who dash over a country behind you horses—stop and loiter! You know now what you miss. Littering and stopping, we reach Little Washington, about 10, distance, 25 miles; roads good; not very hot, tired, but hungry. After a most excellent supper, a few rounds of the German, all agreed that, "Bismarck was the man who invented sleep"—to make to-morrow come the quicker. "Morpheus" in its sweet nature's sweet restorer"—held us in its sweet embrace till the sun was high up in the heavens. Leaving the airy village, in whose jail was not one "victim by his brother's lock," from God's free skies and mountain air, we went on our way.

Soon reaching Sperryville, all were forcibly struck with the cheapness of the dam that supplies the water power for a large tannery—merely a few stones thrown together. The thousands of cords of bark collected shows the thrift and energy of the master mind that directs it all. Surely this country is blessed indeed; splendid flocks of sheep, waving corn-fields on every side. As to fruits, why, every apple, peach, and pear tree seems to be trying to outdo each other in bearing the most luscious burthen, even to the tops of the mountains. They hang out fruit in festoons on every limb. Mountains towering high towards the skies, valleys dark and deep; all wild, so wild—"lovely lasses" from the city remarked—"I would like to see one of 'em!" We've often heard the Virginia roads reviled—slandered. To-day we crossed two high mountains, and our horses broke a dog trot; cro-sed the Massanutten at night. The moon, the stars, the shadows, the mountains, the valleys! caused the question to be asked, who can be an infidel? Having seen this country as we have seen it? Reached New Market—"the best hotel in the Valley." Leaving the Shenandoah river Nagging, ridden by our best questeresses, getting into nearly "four foot" water, shied at a ripple, and in an instant whirled to the left away from her escort. A few shrieks from the vehicle, Catch her! She'll fall! Oh, my! The gentleman being out of reach of her bridle, could only confess to himself the pickle he was in, and exclaimed in dignified tones, Take care! Keep thy presence of mind! A moment more and they were riding together up the bank, amid the hearty cheers of the whole cavalcade.

The printer's devil would surely swear we were to tell of all we saw—the numerous incidents along the road; the strange romances of the happy valleys of Mary's rock—ever above the clouds. We'll tell of the lovely autumn-haired girl—now forty,—but still beautiful, so young looking, whose reason—gone where her heart went—many summers ago with her faithful lover, as she sat in her vine-clad porch, rocking herself to and fro, can hear her calling him even now in the moon light air, Come back! Come back! A feeling of awe crept over us; every man uncovered; the ladies were silent for a moment.

The ride down the Valley, through a succession of farms, cultivated like gardens, on every side, each evidence of thrift and energy—saw the Crow's nest fame, but lovely indeed. The celebrated Valley pike, equal to the drives around our largest cities, as to smoothness, "biased" like a furnace, with the almost, too, rid hard, unrelieved by tree or bush, for miles and miles. We reach Weyer's Cave. As you wind along the mountain path to the little cottage over the opening, one could never imagine what is to be seen in the vast subterranean halls, soon to be lighted up for him. No description could ever do justice to the succession of halls, chambers, passages, one and a quarter miles long. Statistic columns and pillars, fifty, sixty, and ninety feet high, forming for thousands of years, and still the work goes on. No painter could ever paint it; no photographer, but what would despair of the "real thing." And then the darkness! One of our party lingering behind, lost his light; the strange feeling that crept over him in the sombre black darkness, "I felt that I could, with a knife, cut it!" "I was so dark!"

The kindness of Mr. Mohler, the proprietor, was "really lovely." If you wish to have a charming time, get up a party, with good horses, and be a

TRAVELER.  
The English four-in-hand coaches now at Newport, are owned by James Gordon Bennett, Aug. Whiting, Jr., W. P. Douglas, Theodore Havemeyer, and Prof. Rogers, of Philadelphia. The Havemeyers have twenty-six horses, J. G. Bennett has fifteen, and Thomas Winas sixteen. The more elegant of the private establishments are owned by Mrs. Paron Stevens, James Kernochan, Theodore Havemeyer, Geo. P. Wetmore, Aug. Brown, George Fuller, Mr. Thorne (landlord), L. P. Morton, Edward Cooper, George Fearney, Mr. Parish, Dr. Gephire, General Potter, Misses Hunter, J. G. Bennett, John D. Norman, Col. Jip, Louis Lillivard, John H. Baker of Brooklyn, Nick Beach of Hartford, John Dore, Dr. Guittari, and others. George Fuller's gay Hambletonian team and Thomas Mann's grays are said to be the finest in Newport. —New York Express.

#### Letter to Col. Mosby.

MY DEAR COLONEL: Your letter published in the New York Herald, evidently written to a countryman like myself, has just reached my rural abode. Whether it be that I am powerfully affected by the intrinsic beauty of your epistle—its incomparable style, or whether its lofty subject matter has excited me, or whether I have gone and caught the prevalent itch for letter writing; however this may be, I feel myself irresistibly impelled to address you this communication. And in another particular I am going to follow your example in a measure, knowing that then I cannot be in the wrong. I do not give the public my name, as you have withheld from it that of your remarkable correspondent who has views to regard to the relations existing, and that will exist, between Mr. Tilden and the South, which are all his own, except that they are entirely shared by you. If you could truly find one other man in the South, or the whole country, holding these opinions, what an opportunity for immortality would then present itself! Just you three get together and issue warning addresses to the nation, commencing, "we, the people of the United States, &c., &c., &c." I need hardly suggest, Colonel, to an intelligent, well-bred man, like yourself, who has Burke and Junius at his fingers' ends, that you would have well-known historical and English precedent for your proclamation.

You say "I know nothing of Governor Tilden, except that he has long been a leader of his party in New York, whose colossal robberies have been the opprobrium of American politics." But the people of the United States, who are a newspaper-reading people, know a great deal more of him than this. They know well that he was the unrelenting leader of that stern phalanx who brought these colossal robbers to justice, and that their chief escaped, not as you would have your own correspondent believe, by bribing the New York judges, but by the adroit use of his wits and his heels—two articles, Colonel, not to be despised, even by gallant Confederate horse, irregular among the number. The American people also know that Governor Tilden has never been particularly friendly with the people of the South, or her institutions. They know the contrary to the fact that they know that in 1848 he left the democratic party to support the free soilers, Van Buren and Adams. They know that in 1860 he joined the Northern wing of the democratic party in advocacy of the election of Douglas. They know that he was a Union man and a war democrat in 1861, and that he joined Lincoln in emancipating the slaves to break down the Southern Confederacy. All this they know, and as you say you don't know it, why then so much the greater reason for your joining with your correspondent, whose aim you won't give, and who don't know that you and he are no longer Confederate soldiers—so much the greater reason, I say, for your joining with him and the other man in issuing that famous proclamation which is to immortalize the three of you. Embrace this opportunity as life is short, and you may not have another one. But if life is short, thank God, art is long, so don't forget to have your pictures taken, Colonel. That done, and Lincoln and his proclamation won't be a circumstance to you.

You tell your correspondent, in one breath, what a dreadful bad thing it will be for all the Southern people to support Tilden, because of the tendency to arouse sectional feeling (the North). Then you say "I suppose some of the negroes and the carpet-baggers support Hayes, because they think it is in their interest to do so." And in the very next breath you add, "I think it would be equally to the interest of all the Southern people to do the same thing." Wouldn't it be just as bad for all the Southern people to support Hayes as to support Tilden? Nay, wouldn't it be rather worse, as Hayes is a Western man and has a Southern wife? Consistency, you know, C. Mosby, O. is it the old, but ever new story, of the cunning old fox who had lost his tail. You add, "but suppose Hayes is elected, with a solid South against him, what are you going to do then?" Why just what we are doing now with Grant elected, and a solid South against him. By the way, Colonel, that lofty eulogium you have paid Grant (excuse me, that's your way of speaking of him) in his present fallen condition, is very high-strung in you, and must be placed to the credit side of human nature. You will have to pardon the Southern people, though, for not seeing him with the same eyes that you do, not having the same reasons for doing so, possibly. They cannot forget that he has steadily refused to come among them during his term of office; that he grossly insulted a delegation of the best people of South Carolina who were writing upon him; that he has never lifted a finger in their behalf, on the contrary that he sent his armed myrmidons among a Legislature of a sovereign State, in session, of doing various members thereof, while the flag of the United States waved from the dome under which they sat, in solemn guarantee of their sacred rights.

In speaking of the Southern people (your own people) you say, "from a chronic habit of complaining they too often jure a good cause by mixing up real with imaginary wrongs. For instance Mr. Lamar, in the very able speech he recently delivered in the House of Representatives, said that 'what the South wanted was local self government. I thought the South had it. It has not, how did he get into Congress. If Mississippi has not local self government, what sort of a government is it which controls Mississippi and has just elected him to the United States Senate.' Your flag at the long-suffering Mississippians and the gallant Lamar is truly appropriate, Colonel. Mr. Lamar is believed to be unwell, so with profound deference, I will venture a word for him, even against his doughty antagonist. It is the fact that the true people of Mississippi send him to Congress just as the true people of Virginia elect you to stay at home. But for a long time he was the only true representative of his State on the floor of either House of Congress. The carpet-baggers and seceders, and the poor deluded negroes, led by the infamous Adams, and backed by U. S. troops, sent the rest. At last the blacks were aroused from their foolish dreams, and flung to the aid of the respectable native whites, they routed the carpet-baggers and seceders, sending an honest representation to Washington. Those you know to be the facts in the case, sympathizing with the carpet-baggers and seceders as much as you may.

Pardon me, my dear Colonel, for the length into which I have been drawn, but your letter is such a beautiful one that I propose to refer to it very shortly again. In the mean time I beg you to present my affectionate regards to your correspondent, whose name you do not give, and who believes that you and he are still Confederates soldiers; that Mr. Tilden will be a tool in the hands of the South, &c., &c., &c. I take the liveliest interest in the incognitum unknown who is evidently like myself, quite a country boy.

August 21, 1876.

#### Letter from Leesburg.

[Correspondence of the Alexandria Gazette.]  
LEESBURG, VA., Aug. 19.—The delegates to the Alexandria Congressional Conservative Convention from this magisterial district are E. G. Kaufman and Henry Hillery, from Leesville; Henry Heaton and J. L. Norris, from Leesburg; and Lewis M. Shumate, from the county part of Leesburg precinct. Thomas W. Edwards presided and B. F. Sheetz acted as secretary of the meeting that appointed them last Saturday.

After the appointment of delegates the meeting declared it expedient to form a Tilden and Hendricks club, and to erect a pole in Leesburg. B. F. Sheetz was made temporary presi-

dent; John Gray secretary, and H. Heaton treasurer, and the club will meet on Friday next in the afternoon to organize fully, and the pole will be raised and the flag hoisted on Saturday, September 21.

The committee on polls was composed of Dr. A. S. Tehbs, L. M. Carr, E. M. Henderson, G. R. Head and J. L. Norris, and that on flag of Henry Bromough, Walter J. Harrison A. B. Dowell, and W. W. Athey.

There is no well defined enthusiasm but a good deal of quiet determination to deserve success, if not to achieve it. Linton will poll a very full vote. You may recollect that Grant had 1,451 and Greeley 1,450 in Loudoun four years ago; that was the largest vote ever given to the Republican candidates, and about two-thirds the two gubernatorial votes for Walker and Kemper—one getting 2,149, and the other 2,141. The poll tax of Loudoun county is levied on more than 4,400 persons, but about 3,500 is the largest vote ever given. The county is capable of giving 1,400 or 1,500 majority for Tilden.

We have had exceedingly seasonable weather. Another very fine rain last night. Nearly all our rains have fallen towards or in the night, and the crop of fodder is magnificent, and that of corn very good. The crop of potatoes is only so so.

#### Letter from John Mason.

Woolfords, August 21st, 1876.

To the editor of the Alexandria Gazette.

Dear Sir:—The season is advancing fast; the evenings will soon be a good length. It has occurred to me that the reform party ought to make itself known and felt in deed and in truth as well as word and profession. I should like to have a reform Tilden club, embracing our two neighboring counties or at least a series of meetings, and have our sentiments expressed in such language that our meetings not only would be a fit place for ladies, but such that they would like to attend; indeed, I want them to realize they have a very important interest in our reform measures, and we want their influence. I also would like to have it understood by our speakers that we do not wish to snub or vilify the opposing candidates or their associates; our object being only to hold up the truth and establish it by a sound argument that none can gainsay without weakening their own. Our reform needs to reach the whole body clean to the finger ends, from the smallest faculty capacity through all orders of society to the Presidential chair. If you young men will organize such a club I will come to its opening and as often as I can.

I believe I was the first that brought Governor Tilden forward in connection with reform. I do not like to be defeated.

Since writing the foregoing I have read Col. Mosby's letter. At present I will notice but one section. He cannot believe in the total depravity of his party, but thinks that it is not good to reform itself. I am old enough, and have had experience enough to make me think differently. I will ask Col. Mosby a few questions: Did not Gen. Grant at the expiration of his first term stand head and shoulders above any other man in the universe? He certainly was so, and of you. Make in military, if it is not other respect—he ought to save a nation, and the other to destroy a nation.

Have we ever had a better cabinet than his first selection? Was not his reticence counted by all as profound wisdom? Had he retired at that time would it not be a marvellous thing to have been elected to his honor? Yes, high and still higher until the clouds of heaven should fit it an equestrian statue to perpetuate his fame to future generations. If he, with his fame, his strength of position and high attainments, could not reform himself, I am old enough, and have had experience enough to make me think differently. I will ask Col. Mosby a few questions: Did not Gen. Grant at the expiration of his first term stand head and shoulders above any other man in the universe? He certainly was so, and of you. Make in military, if it is not other respect—he ought to save a nation, and the other to destroy a nation.

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Yours truly, JOHN MASON.

#### RACES.

The following is the programme of the fall meeting at Brightwood, Washington:

The first purse is offered for horses owned in the District and the adjoining counties of Montgomery, Prince George's, Fairfax and Loudoun previous to August 1, 1876, and have never been paid \$30; purse \$125; \$60 to first, \$30 to second, \$20 to third and \$15 to fourth horse; the race to be trotted September 1.

For the 5th of September there will be a grand tournament, open for knights from any section of the country. To the successful rider there will be awarded a heavy solid gold medal, to be known as the association championship medal, which the winner must hold to tournament given by this association against all competitors for three years, when it becomes his property. The auspicious ceremonies of selecting the queen, maids of honor, coronation and ball will take place the same evening in the Masonic Hall at Brightwood.

For the eighth of September class three will be trotted, and is for horses that have never beaten three minutes. Same purse and division of money as in first class. Immediately after this is over there will be a sack race of 150 yards for a purse of \$25.

On the 19th, a purse of \$125 will be offered for horses that have never beaten 2:50; \$60 to the winning horse.

Immediately after this a mile race, one-half mile and repeated, for a purse of \$25.

On the 22d a purse of \$125 is offered for horses that have never beaten 2:40, and a purse of \$75, open to all running horses. Mile heats and repeat.

On the 29th a purse of \$200, open to 2:30 horses, and a purse of \$100, open to four year old colts, to harness. Mile heats, best 2 in 3.

J. J. TURNER & CO.'S EXCELSIOR.—The following is a letter from Col. Randolph Harrison, of Cumberland county, Va., one of the best and most successful agriculturists of that State, is addressed to his friends, Messrs. A. Y. Stokes & Co., of Richmond, relative to the merits of J. J. Turner & Co.'s Excelsior:

AMPHIL, CUMBERLAND COUNTY, VA., August 14th, 1876.  
A. Y. Stokes & Co., Richmond, Va.  
Dear Sirs:—Your letter did not reach me until Saturday, and I do not now to respond, giving you my opinion of J. J. Turner & Co.'s Excelsior. I have always been chary of giving credence to the claims of fertilizers, because farmers are apt to form their conclusions hastily and often mislead others, but I think I have tested the "Excelsior" sufficiently to warrant me in saying that it is at least equal to any "ammoniated super-phosphate" at or near the same price that has been upon the market in Virginia. I have used it upon wheat and tobacco, and regard it as admirable for either crop, though endeavor requires me to say that at the present price of wheat I do not think it will pay to use any commercial fertilizers for that crop, unless a with the ulterior object of getting a stand of clover or other grass.

It may be proper for me to state that I have been using commercial fertilizers ever since the introduction of Peruvian guano into general use in Virginia, and that I presume few persons have tried more of the different preparations sold in our market so that I have no small experience. Very truly yours, RANDOLPH HARRISON.

—Balt. Weekly American Aug. 19.

Geo. W. F. Bartlett, of Massachusetts, is said to have remarked lately that he is "with the Tilden movement heart and soul," and intends to give the reasons for his faith in an open letter as soon as his health will permit.

A SEA LION AT LARGE.—The sea lion that escaped into Lake Winnebago, Wisconsin, from Cooper & Bailey's circus, while performing at Oshkosh, on the lake shore, seems to be quite a formidable animal, judging from the following account in the Chicago Times:

A party of gentlemen from the Ryer House started this morning (August 6) for a trip on the lake to Garlick Island, on board the steamer O. B. Reed. When about three miles from Oshkosh some of the party who were standing on the bow of the boat saw a dark object moving in the water nearly half a mile in front of them, headed for the shore, and as no one could make out what it was the steamer was headed for it. When it was about two hundred yards from the boat it disappeared beneath the water. The steamer was immediately stopped and all hands were on the look out for its reappearance. In a few minutes one of the party called out: "There it is!" and sure enough, within one hundred and fifty yards of the steamer we all saw Cooper & Bailey's sea lion that escaped from a show in Chicago. Then visions of the five hundred dollar reward began to float before the eyes of all on board. In a moment the small boat was lowered, and into it was thrown some rope, boat hooks, oars, and an old shot-gun belonging to Captain Reed. The Captain then called for volunteers to assist him capture the monster, and although I have no doubt that all of us would have been glad to have had a hand in the capture, it was impossible, as the boat would hold but three persons comfortably. So Captain Reed selected Mr. George W. Hart, of New York, and Mr. Cameron, of the Ryer House, to go with him. Their coats and vests were off in a moment; into the boat they jumped, and began pulling in the direction of the monster, and words of encouragement from the steamer. Mr. Cameron occupied the bow of the boat, while Mr. Hart sat in the stern and with an oar was directing its course. Captain Reed was the propelling power in the oars.

When about twenty yards from the creature it again disappeared, but this time only for a moment, when it again arose and was seen to be seemingly within arm's length of the boat and directly in front. Those on the steamer saw Mr. Cameron rise, and with a boat hook, give the creature a tremendous blow on the head, which unfortunately seemed only to have the effect of enraging it, and we were horrified to see it raise a part of its body out of the water and descending, strike the side of the boat with its jaws, crushing it as if we were a egg shell, throwing its occupants into the air. A cry of horror rose from the steamer as we saw the brave man sink, but in a moment they rose to the surface and stuck out for the wrecked boat. Captain Reed, being the elder of the party, was the last to reach it, and Mr. Hart and Mr. Cameron extended a hand, helping him upon the boat, which by bottom up. The steamer was immediately headed for them, and just in time; for, as we got near to them, we saw the sea lion again but a few yards away. Seeing the steamer coming toward him, he turned and swam out into the lake, disappearing in a few moments. We took the three men on board, and then tried to find the lion, but after cruising about for an hour and seeing nothing of him, we gave up the chase and returned home.

#### LEE MEMORIAL BALL.

At the late Lee memorial fund ball at the White Sulphur Springs, among the ladies described by the correspondent of the Baltimore Sun were the following: Mrs. Gibson, wife of the member of Congress at that name from Louisiana; Mrs. Dixon, of Norfolk, Va.; Mrs. Russell Robinson, of Richmond, Va.; Mrs. Denny, of Westover, Va.; Mrs. Tripett, of Richmond, Va.; Mrs. Brock-rough, of Washington; Mrs. Werny, of King William county, Va.; Mrs. Wilkins Bush, of Fairfax, Va., daughter of the late John Pennington, of Baltimore; Mrs. Julia Jackson, of West Va.; Mrs. Dunbar Hunt and Mrs. S. D. Lee, of Miss.; Mrs. Harrison, of Miss.; Mrs. Lizzie Harrison, of Westover, Va.; Misses Taylor, of Lee, daughter of Gen. Dick Taylor; Miss Baran, and Miss Blomley, of Washington; Mrs. Wendell, Miss Strong, of N. Y.; Miss Robinson, of Washington; Mrs. Judge Perkins, of N. Y., and her daughter, Mrs. Baily, Miss Paul, of Petersburg; Miss S. Marshall, of Ky.; Miss Voorhees, of Ind.; Miss Ward, of Ky.; Miss Lavinia, of Ky.; Miss Martin, of La.; Miss Jones, of Miss.; Mrs. French, of N. Y.; Mrs. Garden, of Westover, Va.; Miss Monaghan, of La.; Mrs. General Barsow, of N. Y.; Misses Aylett, of Richmond, Va.; Mrs. Sprigg Harwood, of Annapolis, Md.; Mrs. John Dunlap, of Richmond, Va.; Mrs. G. de Stour, wife of the French consul at Richmond, Va.; Miss Templeton, of New Orleans, and Mrs. Hick, of Columbia, S. C. The dress of the ladies is worth mentioning as a peculiarity in the way of carrying a white skirt, on the ground of which had been pinned in during the war, by a artist hand and given in flower groups, having the appearance of rich embroidery, in colors according to nature.

#### COMMERCIAL.

ALEXANDRIA MARKET, August 22. Wheat has advanced considerably since yesterday, and there is a strong feeling, with sales of choice at 12 1/2; offerings of 150 bushels, with prices ranging from 75 to 125, as to quality. Recent offerings of Corn have fallen off, but prices remain unchanged; sales 1,726 bushels at 52 for white, 49 for mixed, and 50 for yellow. Offerings of Rye and Oats, but no sales reported.